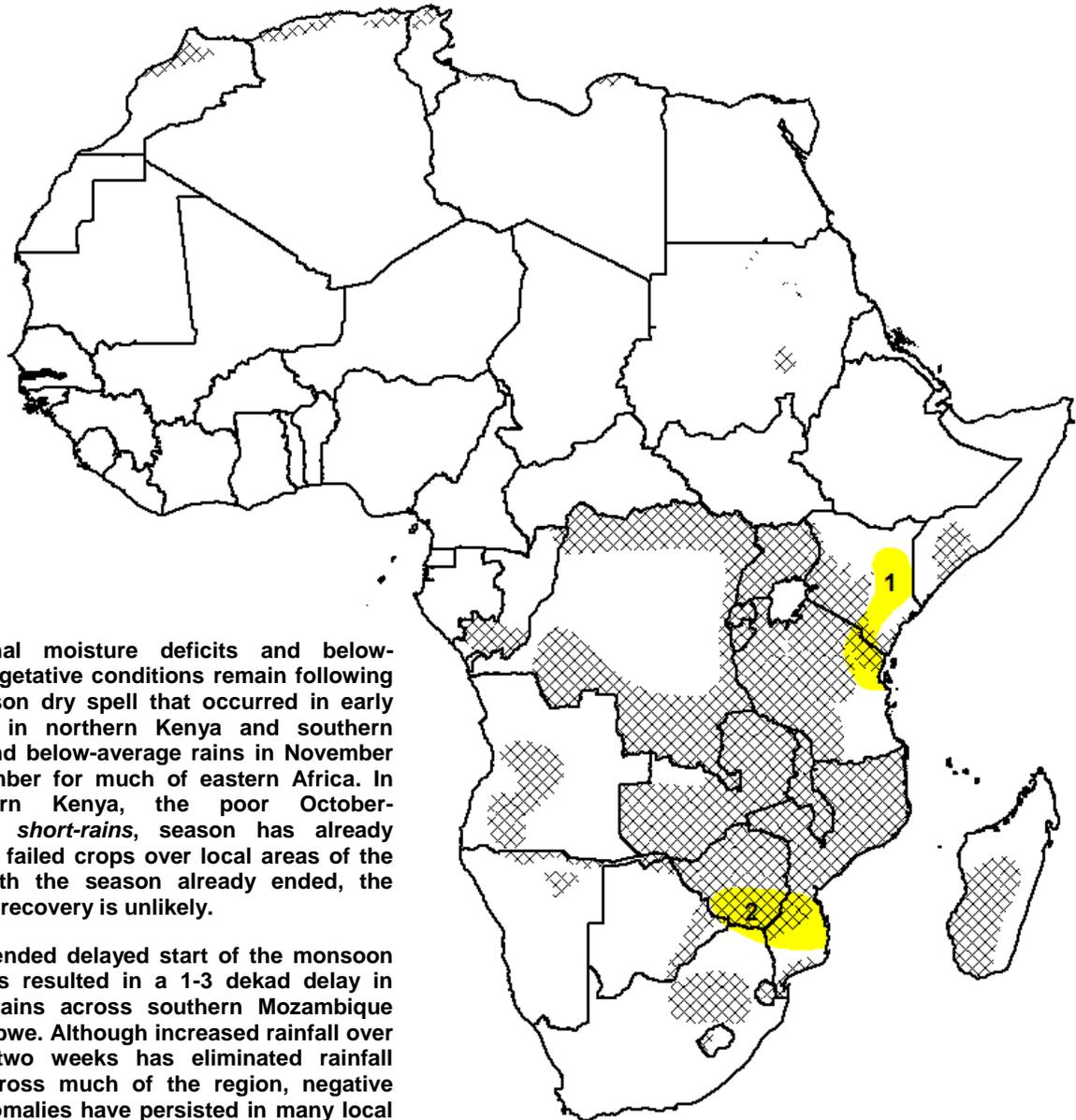


## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET January 10 – January 16, 2013

- Widespread, heavy downpours fell in the eastern parts of southern Africa.
- A partial relief to torrential rains was observed in southwestern Kenya.



1) Seasonal moisture deficits and below-average vegetative conditions remain following a mid-season dry spell that occurred in early November in northern Kenya and southern Somalia and below-average rains in November and December for much of eastern Africa. In southeastern Kenya, the poor October-December, *short-rains*, season has already resulted in failed crops over local areas of the region. With the season already ended, the chance for recovery is unlikely.

2) An extended delayed start of the monsoon season has resulted in a 1-3 dekad delay in seasonal rains across southern Mozambique and Zimbabwe. Although increased rainfall over the past two weeks has eliminated rainfall deficits across much of the region, negative rainfall anomalies have persisted in many local areas of southern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique. The forecast light rains during the next week could help to maintain dryness in the region.

Legend is very general, please see numbered descriptions for details.

xxxxxxx	January Cropped Areas
	Favorable
	Somewhat Favorable
	Flooding
	Short-term Dryness
	Drought
	Improving Drought
	Potential Locust Outbreak

### Heavy downpours fell in eastern southern Africa.

Due to the development of a tropical disturbance in the Mozambique Channel, heavy downpours fell over a large portion of the eastern parts of southern Africa during the past week (**Figure 1**). Rainfall amounts in excess of 75 mm fell across southern Zambia, central Zimbabwe, western and central Mozambique, helping to significantly erode thirty-day rainfall deficits and replenish soil moisture in the region. Heavy rains also fell in southern Tanzania, Malawi, coastal regions of northern Mozambique, the Comoros Islands, and northwestern Madagascar. Elsewhere, moderate to locally heavy rains were recorded. In southern Zimbabwe and southern Mozambique, the continuation of adequate rainfall is well needed to compensate for the moisture stress associated with the delayed start and poor distribution of rainfall during the ongoing rainy season.

The delayed start and uneven distribution of rainfall have already negatively impacted vegetation conditions across the dry portions of southern Africa. The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomalies during late December of last year to early January of this year show below-average conditions across parts of eastern Botswana, southern Zimbabwe, northern South Africa, and neighboring southern Mozambique (**Figure 2**). Some improvements in vegetation condition have been observed over the dry portions of southern Africa over the recent dekadal (10-day time scale) period; however, sustained, adequate amount of rains are still needed to fully eliminate moisture deficits over many local areas of the region. Meanwhile, favorable vegetation conditions were observed over much of South Africa, eastern Zambia, southern Tanzania, and portions of northern Mozambique.

As for the next week, there is a high likelihood for heavy rains to continue across the eastern two-thirds of Zambia, Malawi, northern Zimbabwe, and southern Tanzania, western and central Mozambique. A strong low-level wind convergence may also bring heavy rains along the coasts from central to southern Mozambique, heightening the risks for flash flooding during the next week. In contrast, light rains are expected across the southernmost region of Zimbabwe and neighboring northern South Africa and southern Mozambique.

### Reduced rains brought relief in southwestern Kenya.

After torrential rains that resulted in fatalities and damaged infrastructure during the past week, light to moderate rains fell in southwestern Kenya (**Figure 3**). The reduced rains have provided a partial relief to the oversaturation associated with unseasonably heavy rains over Kenya over the past several weeks. Farther south, while heavy rains poured over southern Tanzania, light to moderate rains fell across the bimodal region of the north, maintaining weak to moderate moisture deficits over local areas near the coasts. During the next week, light rains are generally forecast across eastern Africa. However, isolated heavy showers may develop over Burundi and southern Tanzania.

**Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.**

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